

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 54, 58, 59, 61, 62, 65, 74, 76, 82, 86, 87, 89, 90, 93, 99 and 105 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Li (US 6,322,427). Claims 55, 57, 60, 66, 68-73, 83, 88, 94, 96-98 and 106 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Li.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 56, 63, 64, 67, 75, 78, 84, 85, 91, 92, 95, 100 and 102-104 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

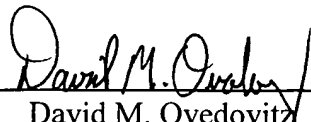
Claim 70 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Li has a filing date of April 30, 1999 which is after the filing date of March 28, 1999 of PCT /JP99/02270 of which U.S. application No. 09/446,764 is a national stage application and the present application is a continuation-in-part. It is submitted that claims 54, 55, 57, 58-60, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68-74, 76, 82, 83, 86-90, 93, 94, 96-99, 105 and 106 are supported by PCT /JP99/02270. As a result, Li is not a reference that can be used to reject these claims. Therefore, the above-mentioned rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) are no longer applicable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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